



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

November 23, 2015

TO: Susie Tae
Hearing Officer

FROM: Steve Mar *Steve Mar*
Regional Planning Assistant
Zoning Permits East

SUBJECT: Additional Information and Materials
Project Number R2015-02580-(5)
Conditional Use Permit No. 201500107
HO Meeting: December 1, 2015
Agenda Item: 2

On November 16, 2015, the applicant held an informational meeting with interested members of the community to discuss the proposed project.

Concerns that community members brought up at the meeting regarding the project include health and safety concerns related to wireless telecommunications facility radio transmissions, loss of property values, line of sight issues from driveways and the street related to the proposed electrical meter box, noise levels from the meter box and from the facility, future expansion of the facility if approved, how the facility would be regulated and inspected if approved, and construction disruption.

An additional comment letter attached to this memo was submitted at the meeting for your review.

The community requested that the applicant provide quantitative information and analyses on Verizon's cell traffic, data volume, and the number of dropped calls in the neighborhood, propose alternate sites for the project outside of residential areas, and provide examples of other "micro" cell sites that they can look at.

If you need further information, please contact Steve Mar at (213) 974-6435 or smar@planning.lacounty.gov. Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

MM:SM

Dear Neighbor,

Verizon Wireless is attempting to have a cell phone tower installed in the neighborhood (Adjacent to 3902 Mountain View Avenue, East Pasadena).

Numerous unbiased (not privately funded) scientific research studies come to the same conclusion: That those living within ¼ mile of a cell tower (***including micro-cell towers which many believe are even more harmful than higher-elevated cell tower antennas since the RF radiation is emitted closer to the ground***) are at much greater risk for developing significant health issues, including cancer (especially breast and brain cancer), nerve disorders, fatigue, memory loss, headaches, sleep disorders, depression, skin problems, hearing loss and cardiovascular problems. (A 2004 study conducted by the German government found that people living within 1300 feet of cell towers had three times the normal cancer risk.)

As with other harmful causes which disrupt the body's healthy functioning and weaken the immune system, children and the elderly are at even greater risk.

Despite biased studies indirectly funded by the telecommunications industry which claim there are no adverse affects on humans and animals/pets due to the microwave RF energy radiated by cell towers/transmitters, more and more people are becoming aware of the huge health risk they pose and taking action. **Case in point: A resolution by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) opposed commercial cell towers being installed on fire stations after a medical study showed increased cancer, brain and nerve problems for irradiated personnel.**

History repeats itself? The dangers of cigarette smoking were covered up by big companies within the tobacco industry for decades. Yet years later links to cancer were confirmed. Verizon Wireless and other major cell service providers are for-profit corporations. Their concern is not for the health of families living in the neighborhoods where their cell towers are placed, but instead on maximizing profits.

Besides the overwhelming evidence which supports the health risks associated with cell towers, surveys show that

CELL TOWERS ADVERSELY IMPACT PROPERTY VALUES

A study by The National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy initiated in June of 2014 resulted in the following: **The overwhelming majority of respondents (94%) reported that cell towers and antennas in a neighborhood or on a building would impact interest in a property and the price they would be willing to pay for it. 79% said under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower or antenna.**

Prospective buyers can easily determine the number and proximity of cell antennas (whether on towers, utility poles, or hidden) to any given property via sites such as www.antennasearch.com.

We may not know definitively the total potential health risks of long-term exposure to RF energy from cell towers for some time yet. But it seems to me that it would be better to be safe than sorry when it comes to having a cell tower within our heavily populated neighborhood. -The health and well-being of ourselves and our loved ones are at stake.

"The proliferation of this irradiating infrastructure throughout our country would never have occurred in the first place had Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 not prohibited state and local governments from regulating the placement of wireless facilities on health or environmental grounds. The federal preemption leaves us in a situation today where Americans are clearly concerned about risks from antennas and towers, some face cognitive and physical health consequences, yet they and their families increasingly have no choice but to endure these exposures, while watching their real property valuations decline."

- Betsy Lehrfeld, Esq., an attorney and Executive Director of The National Institute for Science, Law, and Public Policy (NISLAPP) in Washington, D.C.

References

German study, The Influence of Being Physically Near to a Cell Phone Transmission Mast on the Incidence of Cancer
<http://www.tetrawatch.net/papers/naila.pdf>

A resolution by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
<http://www.iaff.org/hs/resi/celltowerfinal.htm>

Neurobehavioral effects among inhabitants around mobile phone base stations
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16962663>

Dr Dietrich Klinghardt has shown a relationship between microwaves and autism; a summary of his work can be found at <http://electromagnetichealth.org/media-stories/#Autism>

The Biological Effects of Weak Electromagnetic Fields; What the power and telecoms companies would prefer us not to know
http://www.hese-project.org/hese-uk/en/papers/goldsworthy_bio_weak_em_07.pdf

This article references studies done
http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/cell_phone_towers_238

Survey by the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy Indicates Cell Towers and Antennas Negatively Impact Interest in Real Estate Properties
<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140703005726/en/Survey-National-Institute-Science-Law-Public-Policy>

James S. Turner, Esq., Chairman of the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy and Partner, Swankin & Turner in Washington, D.C., says,

"The recent NISLAPP survey suggests there is now a high level of awareness about potential risks from cell towers and antennas. In addition, the survey indicates respondents believe they have personally experienced cognitive (57%) or physical (63%) effects from radiofrequency radiation from towers, antennas or other radiating devices, such as cell phones, routers, smart meters and other consumer electronics. Almost 90% are concerned about the increasing number of cell towers and antennas generally. A study of real estate sales prices would be beneficial at this time in the United States to determine what discounts homebuyers are currently placing on properties near cell towers and antennas."